

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Jan. 10.
At one o'clock in the morning Mr. Paine made an ineffectual motion to place Orr, and subsequently Smith of Alabama, temporarily in the chair, until a Speaker is elected.

A discussion, involving the merits of Know Nothingism and Catholicism, and other subjects, ensued.

Two additional votes were had.

The ballot stood as follows:

Banks,	88
Richardson,	62
Fuller,	27
Pennington,	6
Scattering,	4
Necessary for a choice,	94

Motion to adjourn, with much confusion, followed.

Mr. Winslow moved an adjournment. A recriminating discussion ensued as to which party belonged the responsibility of the non-organization of the House, at the close of which, at half-past eight, the House adjourned to Friday by ten majority.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.

Mr. Sneed of Tenn. withdrew a resolution heretofore offered by him, calling Mr. Orr to the chair until a Speaker is elected, believing, as the House on Wednesday refused to order the main question, it could not be adopted. Voting was then resumed with the following result:

Banks,	98
Fuller,	32
Richardson,	70
Scattering,	5

Mr. Zollikoffer of Tenn. offered a resolution, declaring in conformity with the fundamental principles of this great and popular government, it is the duty of all candidates for political positions, fully and frankly to avow their opinions on important political questions, especially when interrogated by the electors whose votes they are seeking.

Mr. Zollikoffer said his object was to elicit certain replies from Mr. Richardson on the slavery question, which Mr. Richardson declared himself now ready to answer.

A debate ensued involving the propriety of the resolution, which was finally adopted by a vote of 155 for to 28 against. This opens a wide field for discussion. Adjourned.

THE PAPER PLANT IN WISCONSIN.

Under this head we have before us a description of a plant recently discovered in this country by Mrs. A. L. Beaumont of Arena. She has furnished us with a fine sample of cotton, and also of flax, from the same plant, which she describes as follows:

"I discovered, two years ago, a plant, that yields both cotton and flax, from the same root, and believe I am the first person that ever cultivated, spun and knit from it. I am persuaded that any article that will make as good cloth as can be made from this plant will make good paper, hence I call it the Paper Plant. It can be planted in the spring and cut in the fall or winter. It bleaches itself white as it stands, and will yield at least three or four tons to the acre. From a single root that I transplanted last spring there grew twenty large stalks, with three hundred and five pods (containing the cotton) with at least sixty seeds in each. From this I obtained seven ounces of pure cotton, and over a half a pound of flax. It is a very heavy plant, and grows from six to seven feet high."

From the sample before us of cotton and flax, as an article for the manufacture of paper, it must be far better and cheaper than any other known. Mrs. B. in the discovery and cultivation of this plant, is entitled to the gratitude of all, and we trust she may yet be liberally rewarded for so doing.—*Mineral Pt. Trib.*

The President's Message is only worth publishing as a curiosity. It is not the work of a Statesman, nor of the President of the whole people. It is the production of a bitter partisan, and of one anxious for re-election. It is a compilation of the editorials of the various Democratic organs in the country. He seems to have been afraid that Mr. Buchanan was getting ahead in the race for the nomination for the presidency and therefore thrust it to the hands of Congress, in order that his tirade of the North, and his bid for the Presidency, might come before the people.

He talks as if the North was an organized, fanatical mass bent on destroying the Constitution, and overthrowing the government. He insults the Northern Members of Congress, and argues like a madman against everything Northern, and everything that tends against Slavery. He argues for the South and for Slavery. He talks as if Slavery were the only thing valuable in this country. The execution of the Fugitive Slave Law is of more consequence than that of all other laws. The capture of a slave more important than the lives and property of all the settlers in Kansas. President Pierce, by his Message, proves that he is a tool of the South, and that he is a traitor to the North. He shows that the existence and extension of Slavery are the chief objects of the government. It is the main issue, the sole issue. No party is of any value that does not make Slavery its main issue. The Republican party may find its support in the North, but it is not thereby made sectional. If it cannot succeed, this government becomes the machinery by which to support and extend slavery.—*Rutland Herald.*

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The Irish Fillibusters at Cincinnati.

It was announced several days since that some eight or ten persons had been arrested at Cincinnati, charged setting on foot a hostile invasion of the Canadas. The examination of these parties commenced on the 7th inst., before Judge Leavitt, of the United States Court. The names of the parties under arrest are as follows:

Wm. G. Haplin, David Ready, Samuel Lumsden, John Hudson, James Murphy, J. W. Burke, John McGroarty, Bartholomew O'Keefe, Edward Keniff, Thomas Tiernan, Michael Norman, and Owen B. Fairly, who were represented by Attorneys Mallon, Platt and O'Neal.—Mr. Haplin appearing in his own behalf.

Messrs. Sage and Probasco appeared for the prosecution, which was set on foot by Mr. Rowcroft, the British Consul. Mr. Sage made a statement of what he expected to prove—

"That a secret association, called by its members the 'Irish Emigrant Aid Society of Ohio,' had been in existence in this city for a period of three months or more; that it was auxiliary to a parent society in Boston, Massachusetts; that the aim of both, as would appear, were 'the subversion of British government in Ireland,' through or by the help of some military expedition, set on foot and organized in this country by the societies named; that the defendants in this case were members of the 'Irish Emigrant Aid Society,' and in that capacity had violated the neutrality law."

Mr. Sage also read an address of the Robert Emmet Branch of the Irish Emigrant Society of Ohio, to the Irishmen of the Buckeye State, which is not essentially different from the addresses already issued by kindred societies in this city and New York. Mr. Sage also read the following oath administered to the members of the society:

"In the awful presence of God, I do voluntarily declare and promise, that I shall use my endeavors to form a brotherhood amongst Irishmen of all persuasions, for to uproot and overthrow English Government in Ireland; and I furthermore declare, that neither hopes, fears, rewards or punishments shall ever induce me to make known any of the secrets of this order; to all this I most solemnly pledge my most sacred honor."

Among the witnesses was John Powers, a part of whose testimony was as follows:

"Went up to Hamilton some two or three weeks since, in company with a man by the name of Barber; saw Keniff and Burke in the cars; they and Barber conversed together; got off the train at Hamilton; they went into a coffee house and got something to drink; I followed them and saw them go in under a Catholic church after they had got candles; I got near the window, which was on a level with the pavement; there were several persons standing near me; the room was a small one; there were a number of persons in it; the meeting appointed a man as a President. The object of the meeting was then called for; Captain Burke got up and said the object of the meeting was to overthrow and uproot the British Government in Ireland, and to raise means and men for that purpose, and that some men had already gone to Ireland on that expedition; a young man by the name of Dalton got up and opposed it, saying that it was a violation of the laws of the Constitution of the United States, and nothing but a filibustering expedition; when I left and heard no more."

The Court here intimated a desire to adjourn, when the examination ceased; during which the audience had been convulsed with laughter—looking upon the matter of overturning and uprooting the British Government in Ireland as a most capital farce. The Court adjourned until 9 o'clock this morning."

NOTICE.

By order of the society at its last annual meeting, the officers of the Orleans County Bible Society will meet at the office of Jesse Cooper Esq., Irasburgh, on Monday, Jan. 28, at 1 P. M., for the transaction of business.

The following named persons are the officers elected at the last annual meeting—

Rev. S. Chamberlin, president; Wm. J. Hastings, Craftsbury, Thomas Jameson, Irasburgh, Wm. Spencer, Brownington, vice presidents; Rev. J. P. Stone, Greensboro, Rev. I. McAnn, Barton, J. T. Howard, Charleston, Luther Paige, Westfield, Hannibal Hamilton, Newport, directors; A. L. Cooper, secretary; J. Cooper, treasurer; Thos. Jameson, auditor. A. L. COOPER.

Irassburgh, Jan. 10, 1856. Sec'y.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The authorized strength of the army is 17,687; its actual strength is 15,752. The recruiting service is actively progressing, and the deficiency will soon be met. Nearly ten thousand applicants for enlistment had been refused, on account of minority or unfitness.

The general distribution of the troops remains for the most part as indicated in the last annual report.

Efforts are still in progress for the removal of the remnant of the Seminole tribe from Florida. The troops there have been actively employed in exploring the country by land and water, and in opening roads. By these means much important information respecting the territory in possession of the Indians has been gained, which will greatly facilitate future operations. All intercourse with these Indians has been strictly prohibited, and it is believed that they have not in any instance passed the line of observation occupied by the troops.

In the Department of the West, Texas, New Mexico, and the Pacific, Indian hostilities have been of frequent occurrence. For the purpose of chastising the Sioux Indians, implicated in the massacre of a detachment of United States troops in August of last year, a military force was sent into the country inhabited by the Sioux, late in the summer, under the command of Brevet Brigadier General Harney. On the 3d of September, that officer with a portion of his command, engaged a party of the Brule band of the Sioux nation, and after a short conflict completely routed them. The papers and property captured, leave no doubt that this band was concerned in the massacre of the detachment above referred to.

In the Departments of Texas, New Mexico, and the Pacific, military expeditions have been sent against the Indians guilty of outrages upon the persons and property of the frontier inhabitants. Indian hostilities of a much more serious character than there had been reason to apprehend, have occurred in the Territories of Oregon and Washington. To meet the emergency, the Governor has ordered out a mounted volunteer force of seventeen companies, or about twelve hundred men.

The unusual extent of the operations above detailed has necessarily caused large expenditures, which must exceed the appropriations made for ordinary wants of the military service.

The Secretary recommends an increase in the compensation of army officers, and a revision of the laws respecting their allowance. He also renews the recommendation that the provisions of the act of August 4, 1854, increasing the pay of the rank and file of the army, be extended to all enlisted men, some few of whom are, by the military significance of the words used in that statute excluded from the benefits that were probably intended for all who come under military obligations by enlistment, and commends to consideration the representation of the Surgeon General respecting the necessity for an increase of the medical corps.

The sea coast defenses have, during the past year, been steadily pressed towards completion to the extent of means granted by Congress for that purpose.—In no part of our military system is the exercise of the wise foresight more necessary than in the prosecution of these works, and recommend to favorable consideration the remarks of the Chief Engineer upon the subject.

The preparation of the armament for these works is in advance of the construction. The works upon the military roads in the territory of Minnesota, has generally made satisfactory progress. Those in Utah, Washington, Oregon and New Mexico, have not been put under construction. No report has yet been received of the completion of the necessary preliminary surveys.

The survey of the North-western lakes has been prosecuted with similar energy. The several parties employed on the work, have been almost exclusively engaged during the past season in Lakes Michigan and Superior, and the St. Mary's river. A large area has been surveyed; more than a thousand buoys have been located to mark dangerous reefs and shoals, and materials have been gathered for the minute and reliable charts so necessary to the navigation of those inland seas.

The reports of the officers, employed under the appropriation made for explorations and surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific Ocean, were submitted to Congress on the 24th of February last, with a report from this department, giving a general sketch of the country over which they extended; a recapitulation of these results, and a comparison of their distinguishing characteristics, from which it was concluded, that of the routes examined, the most practicable and economical was that of the 32d parallel. A report is herewith submitted from the officer in the department charged with the revision of the work of the several parties,

and I refer to it for additional information, derived from materials collected, on a further examination of them by himself and the several officers who made the particular surveys, as well as for the results of explorations carried on during the past year. When the report was made in February last many of the maps, drawings and scientific paper intended to form part of the report, and which could only be prepared after an elaborate examination of the materials collected, had not been completed for want of time, and it became necessary to substitute hastily prepared drawings and preliminary reports. This was particularly the case with regard to the work on the route of the 35th parallel. A minute examination of the material collected in that survey, has resulted in showing the route more practicable than it was at first represented to be, and in reducing to nearly one-half the original estimate, of the officer in charge of the survey, which indeed seemed, when they were submitted, to be extravagant, and they were noted in the report from this department as probably excessive.

Another feature of interest developed in the course of the further examination of the work, on the route of the 32d parallel, is that the Colorado desert, which is traversed by the route a distance of 133 miles, and which in the report referred to was noticed as consisting of a soil that needed only water to make it highly productive, as in fact the delta of the Colorado river, and according to barometric levels, is so much lower than that stream as to be easily irrigated from it. Thus there is every reason to believe 4,500 square miles of soil, of great fertility, of which nearly one half is in our own territory, may be brought into cultivation, in one unbroken tract along the route. Under the appropriation made at the last session for the continuation of those surveys and other purposes, three parties have been in the field during the past season. One of them was directed to make examinations with the routes of 32d and 35th parallels. This survey has greatly improved the aspect of the former routes, by changing the line for nearly half the Rio Grande, and the Pimas villages, on the Gila River, from barren ground to cultivable valleys, and entirely avoiding a jornada of eighty miles which occurs in that section; also by the discovery of an eminently practicable route through a cultivable country from the plains of Los Angeles, along the coast and through the Salinas valley to San Francisco. The connection originally proposed between those points, was by way of the valley of San Joaquin and the Great Basin.

The attention of this party was also directed to an examination into the practicability of procuring water along certain parts of the route where it is now deficient. The report shows that it may be obtained by common wells at distances of about twenty miles.

From the result of this exploration, moreover, it appears practicable to obtain at a small expense, a good wagon road, supplied with water by common wells, from the Rio Grande down the San Pedro and Gila, and across the Colorado desert. Such a road would be of great advantage. Military operation would facilitate the transportation of the mail across that country, and relieve emigrants pursuing that route from much of the difficulty and suffering which they encounter.

A second party was charged with the duty of testing the practicability of procuring water by artesian wells on the Llano Estacado, an arid plain which has been heretofore described as a desert.—The experiment has so far demonstrated its practicability as to leave little doubt as to its final success. It will be continued, however, until the problem shall have been fully solved.

The examinations into the feasibility of causing subterranean streams to flow up on the surface from Artesian wells, though undertaken in connection with the practicability of a railroad, they should prove entirely successful will have a value beyond their connection with that object, in the reclamation of a region which is now a waste, and its adaptation to the pastoral and perhaps the agricultural uses of man.

The third party was directed to conduct an exploration from the Sacramento to the Columbia river, with a view to ascertain the practicability of a route to connect the valleys of those rivers. The officer in charge has reported the successful completion of the duty, but has not given details. The same officer has been directed to make a reconnaissance of the Sierra Nevada in the vicinity of the head branches of the Carson river.

The prosecution of instrumental surveys, accompanied by investigations into many branches of physical science simultaneously, over lines of such an extent of latitude, is a work of greater magnitude than any of the kind hitherto undertaken by any nation, and its results have not only proved commensurate with the amount of work done, but possess a value peculiar to the scale on which it has been conducted, as affording a basis for the determination of some questions of science, which no number of smaller detached explorations could have furnished.

LAWS OF VERMONT.

SESSION OF 1855.

(Continued from 4th page.)

No. 39—An act to provide for the support of transient insane persons.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

Sec. 1. All insane transient persons in any town in this state, destitute of the means to maintain and support themselves, and who have no relatives that are bound by law to support them, and who have no legal settlement in any town in this state, shall be maintained and supported by the state, at the insane asylum.

Sec. 2. The selectmen in any town shall, on the application of the overseer of the poor of such town, make examination and enquiry, whether such insane transient person had sufficient ability to maintain and support himself, and also whether such person has any relatives in this state, who are bound by law to support him, and whether such person has any legal settlement in any town in this state; and may institute a course of enquiry before the judge of probate of the district in which such town is situated, who shall examine the evidence offered by the selectmen and such other evidence as shall be offered in the case; and if in his opinion, such insane transient person has no legal settlement in this state, and no relatives within the state who are bound by law to support him, and is destitute of the means of supporting himself, and has not come on from being brought into the state for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provisions of this act, such judges of probate shall issue his order for the removal of such insane person to the Vermont Asylum for the insane, in the town of Brattleboro', to be there supported.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the officer, or other person appointed by said judge of probate, to transport such insane person to the asylum, and to leave with the superintendent or trustees of the asylum, or some one of them, a true copy of such warrant, with his return thereon which shall be a sufficient warrant for receiving such person into said asylum.

Sec. 4. The costs and expenses incurred by the examination and removal of any insane transient person to the Vermont Asylum, as aforesaid, shall be discharged by the town instituting such enquiry.

Sec. 5. Whenever such person shall be lawfully discharged from said asylum, it shall be the duty of the town causing him to be removed to said asylum to take charge of and support such person in the same manner as if he had not been removed from such town, and any town not complying with the provisions of this section shall pay to any town suffering damage therefrom all such damage to be recovered in an action on the case.

Approved, November 14, 1855.

No. 40—An act to amend section thirty-nine of chapter eighteen of the compiled statutes, entitled "the support and removal of paupers, and the relief of the insane poor."

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. Section thirty-nine of chapter eighteen of the compiled statutes is hereby so amended as to read as follows:

Each town shall share in the appropriation made in sections thirty-seven and thirty-eight of said chapter in proportion to the number of its insane poor in the asylum, the expense of transporting them at the rate of eight cents per mile on the nearest practicable route from their respective places of residence to the asylum, and the length of time they shall have been at the rate of one dollar and seventy-five cents per week during the year next preceding the first day of August annually.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, November 14, 1855.

No. 42—An act providing for the erection of a monument over the grave of Ethan Allen.

Whereas, the courage, perseverance, the sagacity, and virtue of Ethan Allen, zealously and constantly exercised in upholding the rights and liberties of the people of New Hampshire Grants, and his successful efforts in establishing the sovereignty of the state of Vermont against the oppressive opposition of New Hampshire and New York, the warring neutrality of the federal government, and the artful overtures of the agents of the British crown, have justly rendered his name foremost in the grateful and reverent remembrance of the citizens thereof; and whereas, the monument, erected to his memory by his family, has become dilapidated, and the inscription thereon effaced:

Therefore,

Sec. 1. It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 2. The governor is hereby directed to appoint, as soon as may be, a committee consisting of two suitable persons, whose duty it shall be to cause to be erected a monument at the burial place of Ethan Allen, in the town of Burlington, upon such a plan and with such inscriptions as shall be approved by the Governor, and cause the same to be properly and securely protected against injury, at an expense to the state not exceeding two thousand dollars.

Sec. 3. The committee so appointed shall keep accurate accounts of all expenses arising under this act; and such account, when approved by the governor, shall be paid out of the treasury of the state: Provided, such expenses shall not in the whole exceed the sum of two thousand dollars.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, November 14, 1855.

No. 43—Resolution for the collection of taxes in arrears.

WHEREAS, it appears by a report of the treasurer of this State, that a number of towns are in arrears for taxes previous to the first day of June, A. D. 1855, therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the treasurer be directed forthwith to issue warrants, agreeably to the provisions of the statutes in such cases provided, against such delinquent towns so in arrears for taxes, and thereby specially called the same.

In House of Representatives, Nov. 14, 1855.

Read and adopted.

JENN P. C. COTTELL, Asst. Clerk.

In Senate, Nov. 14, 1855.

Read and adopted in concurrence.

CLARK H. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

No. 44—Resolutions on so much of the Governor's Message as relates to Kansas.

Whereas, the power and influence of the Slaveholding States in this Union has been from an early period, successfully exerted in extending and strengthening the institution of human slavery contrary to the clear intent of the founders of the government, and in violation of the spirit of the Constitution: and

Whereas, in order still further to extend slavery, and to establish it in the free territories of the United States, there have been passed the fugitive slave law, so called, and the code establishing territorial government in the free territories of Kansas and Nebraska, with provision inviting the establishment of slavery therein; and in furtherance of this purpose, the citizens of Missouri have been suffered to invade the territory of Kansas, in armed bands, and to prevent thereby the people of said Kansas from making their own laws:

Resolved, That the act of Judge Kane of the United States Court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania in issuing a writ of habeas corpus, as a means for reducing back to slavery persons who were lawfully made free by the act of their former owner, was a gross usurpation of authority not given to him by the constitution or by any law whatever; that his committing to prison without bail or mainprize, as for contempt, a free man who had made true and respectful return to his writ, was a glaring and unrighteous abuse of power which deserves the condemnation of all lovers of freedom and justice; that the declaration made by him that by national law a slaveholder may freely take his slaves across a free State, and yet retain full power as master and owner over them in any State, law to the contrary notwithstanding, is in defiance of the decisions of the ablest jurists of all States and at all times; and all attempts to practice in accordance with so monstrous a doctrine should meet with a determined resistance by all the inhabitants and the authorities of the free States.

In Senate, Nov. 14, 1855.

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Sec. 2. The selectmen in any town shall, on the application of the overseer of the poor of such town, make examination and enquiry, whether such insane transient person had sufficient ability to maintain and support himself, and also whether such person has any relatives in this state, who are bound by law to support him, and whether such person has any legal settlement in any town in this state; and may institute a course of enquiry before the judge of probate of the district in which such town is situated, who shall examine the evidence offered by the selectmen and such other evidence as shall be offered in the case; and if in his opinion, such insane transient person has no legal settlement in this state, and no relatives within the state who are bound by law to support him, and is destitute of the means of supporting himself, and has not come on from being brought into the state for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the provisions of this act, such judges of probate shall issue his order for the removal of such insane person to the Vermont Asylum for the insane, in the town of Brattleboro', to be there supported.

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